

REMARKS

Claims 15, 17-19, 23-26, 28-30 and 34-38 are now pending in the application. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given to the present application and the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during a telephone interview on September 26, 2005. During that interview, the Examiner indicated that the claims as amended herein would define patentable subject matter over the prior art references (U.S. Patent Nos. 6,502,745 and 6,473,500) cited in the Office Action, but that these amendments may also necessitate further consideration. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-19, 21-30 and 32-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,502,745 (Stimson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,500 (Risafi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the pending claims are patentably distinct over these references. Notwithstanding, independent Claim 15 has been amended to more clearly define the features of the present invention. Basis for these amendments may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including at paragraph [0051]. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention defines patentable subject matter over the relied upon references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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